Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BFOR, ECIN, CI, BL, PE

SUBJECT: CHILEAN PROPOSAL FOR TRINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN

NORTH

REF: STATE 125708

1. REFTEL STATES THAT PINOCHET ANNOUNCED THAT CHILE WOULD BE WILLING TO CREATE TRINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ON THE BORDER WITH PERU AND BOLIVIA. OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE TRINATIONAL COMPLEX WOULD BE NEAR ARICA, AT THE CHILE-PERU BORDER

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JAVIER MURILLO TOLD EMBOFF MAY 22 THAT BOLIVIA HAD THUS FAR RECEIVED NO DETAILS OF THE PINOCHET PROPOSAL. MURILLO RECALLED THAT IN DECEMBER 1976, PRESIDENT BANZER HAD OFFERED TO PROVIDE BOLIVIAN RAW MATERIALS FOR A SIMILAR PROJECT, BUT THAT THE BANZER PROPOSAL WAS TIED TO THE IDEA OF A SOVEREIGN BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR. INSOFAR AS PINOCHET'S REMARKS SEEMED TO PICK UP ON THE BOLIVIAN IDEA, MURILLO SAID, BOLIVIA MIGHT EXPRESS POLITE INTEREST. BUT UNLESS IT WERE LINKED TO A SOVERIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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CORRIDOR, SUCH A COMPLEX "WOULD CARRY NO BENEFITS FOR BOLIVIA".

3. IN CONCLUSION, MURILLO, WHO HAS HELPED SHAPE BOLIVIA'S SEA OUTLET DIPLOMACY, DISMISSED THE PINOCHET OFFER AS A "TRIAL BALLOON," AND DOUBTED IT COULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

	Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014
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